

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING DR. THOMAS E.
FLORESTANO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on March 31 my state of Maryland lost a giant in the realm of higher education. Dr. Thomas E. Florestano, who served for fifteen years as President of Anne Arundel Community College, sadly passed away at age 79.

The son of Italian immigrants, Tom was born in Annapolis and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1952. He matriculated into the University of Maryland but paused his studies to serve in the U.S. Army as a military police officer in Korea and West Germany. Honorably discharged as a sergeant four years later, Tom returned to the University and earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1958.

While an undergraduate, Tom met his future wife of 52 years, Patricia Sherer. Together, they dedicated their careers to improving access to higher education for Maryland students, with Patricia teaching at the University of Baltimore and currently serving as chairwoman of the Board of Regents for the University System of Maryland.

After graduating, Tom worked as an education advisor at the Army Education Center in Fort Meade. Two years later, he joined the University of Maryland as assistant dean of student life and director of student activities. During this period, Tom earned his master's degree in education and later obtained his Ph.D., both from the University of Maryland.

Tom turned his attention to community college administration in 1970, when he took a job as dean of evening and community education and summer school at Prince George's Community College. After nine years there, Tom was appointed President of Anne Arundel Community College.

He took over during a time when the college was facing significant challenges, including tensions between faculty and administration as well as declining enrollment and budget shortfalls. Tom oversaw a program of revitalization that tripled enrollment, instituted new degree programs, expanded the campus, and turned deficits into sound finances by the time he retired in 1994. The legacy of his leadership of Anne Arundel Community College has been its transformation into the third-largest community college in Maryland. Even more so, Tom put the "community" back in "community college."

All of us who knew Tom recognized him as one who looked at a challenge and saw an opportunity and who looked at a student and saw a future. Those futures were what he worked so hard to make possible for thousands of Maryland students.

Tom will be greatly missed by the Maryland education community and by all of us who called him a friend. I join in celebrating his life

and offering my condolences to Patricia, their son Tom Jr., daughter Leslie, son-in-law Kevin, and their extended family.

TRIBUTE TO ROMNEY, WEST
VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the city of Romney. In 2012, the city will celebrate its 250th birthday with a year-long celebration. Romney is the oldest town in the oldest county in West Virginia. On December 23, 1762, Virginia's Governor signed the act that created Romney.

When Virginia was divided during the Civil War, Romney was located in what became West Virginia. The city was located in an area that was important to both the North and the South during the Civil War and is rumored to have changed hands 56 times as a result. Romney is home to the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind as well as Davis History House, Hampshire County Courthouse, the Taggart-Hill House, the Wilson-Woodrow-Mytinger House, and the oldest office building in the state. I'm pleased to have this unique city in my district!

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA
AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ma Ying-jeou and the people of Taiwan as they celebrate Mr. Ma's presidential inauguration this May 20. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou won re-election as the fifth freely elected president of the Republic of China on January 14.

President George W. Bush once famously described Taiwan as "a beacon of democracy to Asia and the world." His words were recognition of Taiwan's achievements in democratic developments. The United States and Taiwan value human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law. Our shared values have produced a strong and dependable friendship for the past century. Taiwan was one of the first to come to our aid after the events of September 11th and Hurricane Katrina. Taiwan continues to be our ally in the war against terrorism by cooperating with humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan and providing intelligence. They have shown generosity and compassion by donating to the Twin Towers Fund and Pentagon Memorial Fund.

In honoring Taiwan, we need to continue to sell defensive weapons to Taiwan under the

framework of the Taiwan Relations Act. Despite the rapprochement that has been built up between Taiwan and the PRC, a well-armed Taiwan is still the best guarantee to permanent peace in the Strait. Also, I firmly believe that Taiwan should have a much broader international visibility. I encourage my colleagues to support Taiwan's current bid to join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as an observer.

To President Ma and the people of Taiwan, I extend my congratulations on their Presidential Inauguration Day.

HONORING WILFRED EARL
ARCHER

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is a pleasure and honor to pay tribute to Wilfred Earl Archer, who was born in Port Huron, Michigan on Jan. 30, 1926, to Glen and Genevieve Archer. "Bill" was raised in Flint, Michigan, and attended North Muskegon High School. His family then moved to Detroit, where he attended Denby High School.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who served in the U.S. Army and fought in World War I, Bill felt an intense need to serve his country during World War II. He left school and enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, on April 1, 1943. He was stationed in San Diego, CA, where he received Amphibious Forces Training in operating Troop Carriers (LCVPs). He was then transferred to San Francisco and stationed on the USS *Middleton*, which was modified/ transformed into an Assault Personnel Attack vessel. The *Middleton* was sent to Maui, Hawaii, and then to New Guinea to assist the 98th Infantry in the invasion of the Philippines. Bill was awarded five Battle Stars for service in the battles within the Pacific Theater; Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, Leyte, and Luzon. As an LCVP engineer and gunner, Petty Officer 3rd Class Archer also served as a Diesel Electrical Engineer. He was honorably discharged in January of 1946. As a civilian, Bill worked at a foundry in Muskegon.

In 1948, Bill enlisted as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps, which shortly thereafter became the U.S. Air Force. He received training in aircraft engine repair in Biloxi, Mississippi. His military career took another direction when Bill was sent to Japan to activate the 1273rd Transport Squadron. While in Japan, Bill achieved flying status as a Flight Engineer, and accumulated 18,000 flying hours while involved with embassy flights to the Philippines and India, and combat flights in the Korean Conflict. In 1949, Bill was a crew member of a C-54, which was the first U.S. aircraft destroyed in the Korean Conflict. It was unoccupied when it was bombed at an air base in Kempo, South Korea. After serving

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